

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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R 141202Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3854
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0844

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SU ET UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT SOVIET AMB FEDOTOV HAS BEEN LOBBYING IN BEHALF OF ETHIOPIANS AND AGAINST CURRENT GOS POLICIES IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH SUDANESE. HIS OPINIONS BEGINNING TO BE DISCUSSED AMONG POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS SUDANESE AND UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE REACHED SENIOR LEVELS OF GOS.

2. FEDOTOV ARGUING GOS HAS FAILED ABIDE BY WHAT HE DESCRIBING AS LONG-STANDING SECRET AGREEMENT WITH ETHIOPIA UNDER WHICH EACH SIDE AGREED PROVIDE NO ASSISTANCE, APART FROM HUMANITARIAN AID, RESPECTIVELY TO ANSAR REBELS IN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREANS IN SUDAN. MOREOVER, BY ESPOUSING ERITREAN INDEPEND-
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ENCE, GOS HAS LOST SUPPORT NOT ONLY OF EPMG, BUT OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AS WELL WHO WOULD NEVER AGREE TO INDEPENDENCE FOR PROVINCE.

3. FEDOTOV HAS ALSO COMPLAINED THAT GOS NO LONGER TRULY NEUTRAL. HE SAID ONLY SAUDIS ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN RED SEA SECURITY AND QUOTE EVERYONE KNOWS WHO IS BEHIND SAUDIS UNQUOTE.

ONLY REASON GOS INTERESTED IN RED SEA SECURITY AND IN DROPPING ITS HITHERTO IMPECCABLE NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS IS LURE OF SAUDI MONEY. SAUDIS, HE CLAIMED, HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED SOME \$300 MILLION FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM US. TO USE THIS GEAR PROPERLY WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE RETRAINING SUDANESE MILITARY, DURING WHICH COUNTRY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE.

4. FEDOTOV CLAIMED EXILED NATIONAL FRONT STILL PLOTTING AGAINST NIMEIRI WITH LIBYAN BACKING. EFFORT WILL GO ON BUT WILL FAIL. FEDOTOV ADMITTED TO SOVIET COOPERATION WITH LIBYA, BUT CLAIMED SOVIETS KNOW SOME DAY QADHAFI WILL FIND PRETEXT TO THROW THEM OUT. NONETHELESS, SOVIETS SEE VALUE IN COOPERATING WITH TRIPOLI AS LONG AS COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS EXIST AND THEY CAN BENEFIT.

5. COMMENT: PRESSURES OF RECENT EVENTS IN HORN EVIDENTLY CAUSING FEDOTOV GIVE UP ANY PRETENSE OF REMAINING NEUTRAL BETWEEN SUDAN AND ITS TWO PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS, LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA. THIS WILL BE INTERPRETED BY NIMEIRI AND OTHERS AS QUOTE PROOF UNQUOTE OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS LIBYAN, ETHIOPIAN OR OTHER MOVES AGAINST REGIME. IT SUGGESTS SOVIETS PROBABLY HAVE GIVEN UP HOPE SALVAGING MUCH OF THEIR POSITION HERE UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. NET RESULT, WE THINK, WILL BE EVEN GREATER GOS SUSPICION AND WARINESS TOWARD SOVIETS. BREWER

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